

REMARKS

Claims 69, 71-74, 76, 80-92, 94-97, 99, 101-107 and 110-117 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 69, 92, 101, 102, 107 and 114 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 79 and 109, and claims 79 and 109 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. In addition, claim 80 is amended to change its dependency to claim 69, claims 94-96 and 98 are amended to change their dependencies to claim 92, and claim 110 is amended to change its dependency to claim 107. In addition, claims 70, 77, 78, 93, 98, 100 and 108 are cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested, at least in light of the following remarks.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because e.g. they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 69-71, 73, 74, 76, 85-88, 90-92, 101, 114, 116 and 117 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0029256 to Zintel et al. (Zintel) in view of "An Open Service Architecture for Adaptive Personal Global Communication" by Kanter; rejects claims 77-82, 89 and 93-100 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Zintel, Kanter and U.S. Patent No. 6,167,448 to Hemphill et al. (Hemphill); rejects claims 72, 83, 84 and 115 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Zintel, Kanter and U.S. Patent

Application Publication No. 2003/0048470 to Garcia; rejects claims 102-106 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Zintel, Kanter and Garcia; and rejects claims 107-113 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Zintel, Kanter, Hemphill and Garcia. The cancellation of claims 70, 77-79, 93, 98, 100, 108 and 109 render the rejections of those claims moot. The rejection of the rest of the claims is respectfully traversed.

Zintel and Kanter, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose each and every feature recited in claim 69. For example, Zintel and Kanter fail to disclose "at least one device selected by the selecting module to transmit link information when a predetermined condition is satisfied in said at least one device; each of said plurality of electronic devices comprising: a link information storage portion that stores link information indicative of a location of data to be output...said printer further comprising...an outputting module that obtains and outputs the data to be output in accordance with the link information received by said link information module," as recited in claim 69.

The Office Action asserts that description information that describes the control devices in Zintel's network corresponds to the link information recited in the claims. However, Zintel discloses that the description data includes vendor specific manufacturer information, such as model names and numbers, serial numbers, manufacturer names, and URLs to vendor specific websites (see Zintel, paragraph [0617]). This data merely describes the control device and is not indicative of the location of data to be output. Although Zintel includes a vendor specific website in the description data, Zintel fails to disclose that data in the website is to be outputted. Furthermore, Zintel discloses that the data outputted by a control point is used to control the control devices (see Zintel, paragraph [0756]). This data is located within each control point (see Zintel, paragraph [0756]). Thus, the control points of Zintel already know where the output data is located and do not need link information to find such output data. Therefore, the link data of Zintel is not indicative of the location of the

output data, and Zintel fails to disclose link data indicative of the location of output data as required in independent claims 69, 92, 101, 102, 107, and 114. Kanter, Hemphill and Garcia all fail to remedy this deficiency.

Zintel and Kanter also fail to disclose that "a UPnP command transmitting module that transmits a predetermined command of a UPnP protocol for requesting said at least one device selected by the selecting module to transmit link information when a predetermined condition is satisfied in said at least one device, the predetermined condition including at least one of: (a) a consumable member of each electronic device being less than a predetermined amount; and (b) a replacement member of each electronic device being required to be replaced," as recited in amended claim 69.

The Office Action asserts that the "HTTP GET" request of Zintel corresponds to the predetermined command recited in claim 69. Zintel discloses that the "HTTP GET" request is sent to a device of which little is known to retrieve UPnP description of the device (see Zintel, paragraph [0723]-[0725]). However, as discussed above, Zintel fails to disclose link data. Accordingly, the "HTTP GET" request of Zintel is not a command for requesting link data as required by claim 69.

In addition, in the rejection of claim 79, the Office Action agrees that Zintel and Kanter fail to disclose that the predetermined condition for sending the predetermined command includes at least one of "a consumable member of each electronic device being less than a predetermined amount" and "a replacement member of each electronic device being required to be replaced," as recited in original claim 79 and incorporated into amended claim 69. However, the Office Action asserts that Hemphill remedies this deficiency.

Hemphill discloses a management server 102 that analyzes and diagnoses problems within a management network 100 (see Hemphill, col. 5, lines 26-40). Hemphill further discloses that there are many categories of actions that the management server 102 discovers

(see Hemphill, col. 5, lines 41 and 42). Among these categories are hardware fault detection, software configuration actions, thresholds, action advisories, software updates and traps (see Hemphill, col. 5, line 41- col. 6, line 16). The Office Action asserts that these categories of actions correspond to at least one of the predetermined conditions recited in original claim 79. However, the categories of actions of Hemphill do not include either "a consumable member of each electronic device being less than a predetermined amount" or "a replacement member of each electronic device being required to be replaced" as recited in claim 69. Therefore, Hemphill fails to remedy the deficiencies of Zintel and Kanter.

Furthermore, one of ordinary skill would have no reason for combining Hemphill with Zintel. For example, Zintel discloses that the "HTTP GET" request is issued when little is known about the selected device (see Zintel, paragraph [0723]). However, all of the categories of action of Hemphill relate to problems analyzed and diagnosed by the management server 102. The management server 102 must already know enough about the selected devices to diagnose and analyze problems of the selected devices. In other words, for each category of action of Hemphill, the selected device is already well known. Thus, there would be no reason to submit an "HTTP GET" request in response to an occurrence of any of the categories of action of Hemphill because the devices would already be well known.

Therefore, claim 69 is patentable over the applied references.

Independent claims 92, 101, 102, 107 and 114 recite features similar to those discussed above for independent claim 69. Therefore, these claims are also patentable at least for the reasons discussed for independent claim 69, as well as for the additional features these claims recite.

Dependent claims 70-78, 80-91, 93-100, 103-106, 108-113 and 115-117 depend from independent claims 69, 92, 102, 107 and 114, respectively. Therefore, these claims are also

patentable at least for their dependence on the independent claims, as well as for the additional features these claims recite.

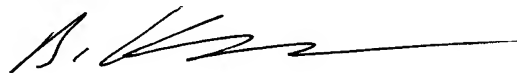
Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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